

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending. Claim 18 is cancelled herein.

Claims 2-3, 8-12, 14-17, and 27-29 are amended herein to correct various typographical errors and matters of form.

Claims 4-7 are amended herein to reflect proper dependency from Claim 2. Claims 4-7 as filed recite a transcription factor decoy, antecedent basis for which is found in Claim 2 as filed.

Claim 17 is further amended herein to recite an oligonucleotide decoy "comprising one or more copies of a transcription factor binding site." Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Claim 1 as originally filed.

Claim 29 is further amended herein to recite "comprising one or more copies of a NF- κ B binding site." Support for this amendment is found, for example, at paragraphs [00398]-[00400] of the Specification as originally filed.

It is believed that the present Amendment involves the introduction of no new matter and that no additional claims fees are due. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction between the following Groups of claims:

Group I, including Claims 1 and 4-7, drawn to a concatemered double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys;

Group II, including Claim 2, drawn to a transcription factor decoy comprising concatemered double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end

repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys;

Group III, including Claim 3, drawn to a combinatorial transcription factor decoy comprising concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end nucleotide sequence comprising two different sequences that act as transcription factor decoys for two or more transcription factors;

Group IV, including Claim 8-1, drawn to a method of delivering transcription factor decoys *in vitro*, in isolated cells, comprising concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys;

Group V, including Claims 8-10, drawn to a method of delivering transcription factor decoys *in vivo*, in isolated cells, comprising concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys;

Group VI, including Claims 11-16 and 26-28, drawn to a method for treatment of NF-kB-associated diseases which comprises administering to an animal an effective amount of a polynucleotide NF-kB chromosomal binding site decoy which antagonizes NF-kB-mediated transcription of a gene located downstream of a NF-kB binding site wherein the polynucleotide comprises one or more copy of the oligonucleotide decoy;

Group VII, including Claims 17-25, drawn to a method of treating a nuclear factor kB-dependent disease selected from the group consisting of immunological disorders, septic shock, transplant rejection, radiation damage, reperfusion injuries after ischemia, arteriosclerosis and neurodegenerative diseases, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of an oligonucleotide decoy; and

Group VIII, including Claim 29, drawn to a therapeutic method comprising treating non-aortal procedural vascular trauma comprising administering to an mammal, subjected to the procedural vascular trauma, an effective protective amount of an oligonucleotide decoy, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Without commenting on the merit of the restriction and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group II, drawn to a transcription factor decoy comprising a concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys. By the present amendment, Claims 4-7 are amended herein to depend from Claim 2, such that Group II includes Claims 2 and 4-7.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the present Amendment involves the introduction of no new matter and represents a complete response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2010. Applicants therefore respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and commencement of examination of the Application on the merits. It is believed that no additional fees are required, but in the event this is incorrect, please charge any additional fees required in connection with the present Response to Restriction Requirement and Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

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